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Finally it's official: Minister Donner moves to Council of State

THE HAGUE -- After months of speculation, the Dutch cabinet has finally confirmed that social affairs minister Piet Hein Donner is standing down to become deputy president of the Raad van State and that Liesbeth Spies will take over his job.

Donner's appointment had been widely expected. He succeeds Herman Tjeenk Willink and will take over his duties on February 1.

The Raad van State (council of state) has two main roles: it advises the Dutch government and parliament on legislation and governance and is also the country's highest ad-



ministrative court. Queen Beatrix is the council's presi-

dent.

Donner's place in the cabinet is being taken by Liesbeth Spies, currently a member of the CDA delegation on Zuid-Holland's provincial council.

Spies was a CDA MP between 2002 and the 2010 general election and then took over the role of acting party chairman.

According to reports, Spies will not count integration among her responsibilities. That role is being transferred to immigration minister Gerd Leers.

Happy Ohio couple marry during a beautiful sunset ceremony

Bucuti Beach Resort helped create an intimate beach ceremony for Andrew and Sarah from Van Wert, Ohio. The couple, who have known each other since high school, were officially married in the historic Civil House in Oranjestad, and then had their union blessed on Bucuti's powder white beach in the presence of two family members as witnesses. Heartfelt vows brought tears to everyone's eyes as the couple expressed their love and commitment to each other.

"Wonderful, more perfect and stress-free than I could imagine" the bride expressed as she described their wedding experience at Bucuti. "We chose Aruba because of the natural beauty and fabulous weather. We chose Bucuti due to the small size and tranquil environment" explained the newlyweds. "Best place to plan a wedding if you want simplicity and peaceful beach ambiance. Reverend Gibson, Photographer Diane Keijzer, and Nashette-the wedding planner,



were wonderful, and delivered a dream come true. Truly a perfect start for our lives together" added the bride.

Bucuti Beach Resort would like to extend their wish to this wonderful couple for a lifetime of happiness.

Photography by Diane Keijzer (dianekeijzer@yahoo.com)

Teenage pregnancy rates 'a concern in Latin America'



CARACAS-- AFP photo shows a young mother holding her newborn baby in a maternity center in Caracas, Venezuela. According to the World Health Organization, Venezuela holds the first place in South America in cases of early pregnancy, with about 1,500 children born daily from teenage mothers aged between 12 and 19 years.

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A doubly wet, but warm Aruban welcome for Laser Airlines



A toast to a new tourism partnership



A toast to a new tourism partnership

Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, was joined by Aruba Airport Authority CEO Peter Steinmetz in warmly welcoming the inaugural flight of regular service from Venezuela with Laser Airlines. Unusual

circumstances of a heavy shower just at landing provided a double dousing for the plane, along with the ritual water cannons, as it made its way to the gate.

Continued on page 3



Where Everyone is Welcome

*** MANAGEMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DISCONTINUE THE PROMOTION AT ANY TIME ***
*** 1 PER PERSON PER DAY ***



Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green www.people-self-development.com



How can I be happy at Christmas time? -- 4 ways!

Yes, it is the time to be jolly... it is Christmas time when everyone is bouncing around, shopping and decorating and singing. The thought of eating ham, turkey, delicious cakes and drinking exotic drinks - and of meeting with family and friends excite most of us.

Even children are ecstatic about Christmas because for them it means getting new things and lovely toys and other gifts.

But, you'll be amazed to discover that a great number of people simply abhor the yuletide season! They wish that Christmas would never come or that it would blow away with the wind. They can't stand the singing of the "Aguinaldos" (traditional Aruban Christmas music), nor can they stand the hustle and bustle of people shopping for gifts and making merry.

Why is this you ask? Well, these people have great difficulty coping with the loss of some loved one who will not be with them for Christmas! Someone who always shared their Christmases in the past, the person with whom they exchanged gifts and laughter at Christmas is no longer with them. It may be that the person died, or that the person walked out of their life through a divorce or separation.

So, Christmas time is an extremely sad time for them, and they succumb to depression.

Psychologists report an increase in clients suffering from depression and/or suicidal thinking at this time of the year. Many, many people who have lost someone have real difficulty dealing with their

emotions at Christmas time. The memory of the missing person brings gloom rather than gladness...and they don't know how to cope with the loss at Christmas time!

If this is you or someone you know, what should you do? Firstly, you must rebuke any and all feelings of guilt. Feeling guilty for something over which you had no control will cripple your ability to see things clearly and ruin your emotions. Alright, that person you loved and cared for walked out of your life; and perhaps you had some fault in the process, but it is now time to get on with your life. Stop blaming yourself, stop musing over the mistakes made, stop feeling guilty and get up and go to the next level! Remember, no matter how bad the situation was, or how ugly you feel about it all, you can always begin again! Make this Christmas your new beginning, rather than bemoaning the past!

Or, maybe there is that person you loved that died. There is nothing you can do to change that. Death is final. Instead of sobbing, and sadness, try singing. You can be sure that that person would want you to be happy.

Secondly, release all sad emotions. Empty your bucket of tears. This is particularly helpful and therapeutic if you have not really cried over your loss. Get alone somewhere or with one person you trust and feel really comfortable with and let your feelings just hang out....cry, cry, and cry, and empty your bucket. Then, wipe off those tears and move on to a new you without the burden

of grief you've been carrying.

Thirdly, reach out to someone in need. Stop looking in and look around you for someone who has a need that you can meet. Maybe it is someone who needs some food, or who needs a hand with a difficult chore around the house, or who needs someone to listen to his/her sad experience so they can empty their bucket of tears. When you reach out to others something magical and mysterious happens to you. You gain a brand new perspective on your life and you discover that your worth is far more than you estimated!

Your loneliness and feelings of depression disappear and you find new strength to go on.

And, there is one final thing that you must do, and that is; receive Jesus: put your faith and trust in the 'reason for the season'...Jesus Christ, for whom we celebrate this wonderful season of the year. It is Jesus who came to mankind on Christmas day to bring us salvation and peace and joy. Lean on Him and you will be granted His peace and joy! After all, Christmas is about Jesus!

Here again are the four steps to take to enjoy your Christmas: rebuke all guilt, release sad emotions, reach out to someone, and receive Jesus!

Determine today that you will get up and begin again... with Jesus, the greatest Christmas Gift ever given! Merry Christmas!

If this article was helpful, do let me know: tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com, Thanks.

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A doubly wet, but warm Aruban welcome for Laser Airlines

Continued from page 2



A gift from Peter Steinmetz marking the inaugural flight

The 110-passenger DC-9 jet arrived yesterday precisely on time, at noon, with 66 passengers, including Laser Vice President Alejandro Alvarez and their Commercial Director of Planning, Rene Cortez. Mr. Cortez and Captain Juan Carlos Lopez, who piloted this maiden flight, along with Minister Oduber, cut the ribbon to officially inaugurate this 4-times a

week service; twice departing from Valencia and twice from Caracas, with an eye towards increased flights in the near future, including service to and from Maracaibo. A number of international media members operating out of Venezuela were also onboard.

Greeting them on behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority were Dylan Calister, CFO and Marian Dabian, Director of Sales and Marketing, Latin America.

All parties involved expressed their extreme satisfaction with this new tourism partnership, and optimism for a productive future, followed by a champagne toast and the ritual exchange of gifts between Laser Airlines and Minister Oduber and airport



Water cannon welcome

officials.

Ms. Dabian explained that Latin America is an important market for Aruba, of which Venezuelan tourists comprise the single largest group. Airline executives agreed there is great demand for airlift to Aruba, as they are well ac-

quainted with the island from flying here with charter service, and are very pleased to offer what they consider a decidedly upscale destination to their patrons, which is only a short 25-minute flight away.

by Rosalie Klein



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Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Wind, Sand, and Stars, 1939

Concierges discover new adventures in eating at Yalla Yalla and House of Japan



Host Kanaan Baroud and wife

Who would imagine combining creative sushi rolls and classic Middle Eastern dishes would produce such a tasty feast? Kanaan Baroud, proud proprietor of House of Japan and Yalla Yalla had utmost confidence that resort concierges would be won over by these

two tasty cuisines during a special night he hosted for these hard working hotel staffers, and he was right on the money.

"Wow, I have never had Middle Eastern food before," exclaimed one Hyatt Regency

hostess, "what a delightful surprise! I and my colleagues will definitely be back for more!"

These mavens of island restaurants were equally impressed with the new décor around the two restaurants occupying the corner spot in the main corridor of the South Beach



A toast to great ethnic food



A tempting selection of original and unique sushi

Center, across from the Radisson Resort. They also enjoyed the charm and ebullience of the restaurants majordomo, Francisco, who truly enjoyed showing off their elegant new set up allowing diners to enjoy al fresco dining while protected by any showers, and savor that ambiance of a side walk café where they can watch the



Chef Katsui with Hyatt staffers

world go by.

However, the real stars of the night was the parade of authentically ethnic dishes devised by Chef Katsui, including some specialized sushi rolls only to be found at House of Japan. They made a great, fresh prelude to such classics as hummus, tabouleh, falafel, and shish-kabob, which grace the menu of Yalla Yalla, the name for Middle Eastern fast food. The restaurant is also heaven for vegetarians, with a large selection of tasty no-meat dishes.

South Beach Lounge is included in Kanaan's stable of eateries, where guests can also relax and enjoy exotic drinks along with any of the dishes from either restaurant's menus, along with a few puffs

from a genuine hookah made available to guests. Resort concierges agree: this is the way to experience the world, minus the costly airfare!

by Rosalie Klein



Francisco greets old friends

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Win a Suzuki Swift -- Buy or renew your Blackberry contract at SETAR N.V.



SEROE BLANCO – Aruba's telecommunication company, SETAR N.V., announces all clients who buy a new Blackberry or renew their Blackberry contract are eligible to participate in a raffle to win a Suzuki Swift. The car can be seen in front of SETAR's main building at Seroe Blanco.

Please take note: this raffle is ONLY for clients who buy a new Blackberry, or renew their Blackberry contract. The winner will receive a brand new car including one year insurance FREE.

On January 4, 2012 SETAR will pick a winner of the Suzuki Swift; the drawing will take place in front of the main building at Sere Blanco.

Mr. Marcel Meenhorst, sales manager of Ultimate Automobiles – exclusive dealer of Suzuki Swift -- has already handed the keys of the Suzuki Swift to SETAR Marketing executives; now it's their turn to hand the keys over to the lucky winner on January 4, 2012.

Setar's Digital Cable proudly presents CARS 2 on Video-on-Demand!

Pixar, producers of the highly successful CARS 1, has done it again and is now offering to the world the continuation of that fantastic movie...CARS 2. The new hit movie has already collected more than \$68 million dollars at the box office, which is twice as much of what has been collected for other movies during this current season.

The CARS movie is a favorite cartoon among children and adults alike. All Aruba Digital Cable clients can now enjoy this hit movie on Video-on-Demand (VOD).



CARS 2 has hit the market with great success just as was the case with CARS 1.

The movie centers around the "Lightning McQueen" race

car and his friend "Mater" who heads out on a trip to compete in the World Grand Prix. However, the trip to the championship becomes more and more difficult as "Mater" pursues an adventure of his own: an international spy episode.

This weekend our children are out of school on holidays and would be an ideal time to get them to watch the CARS 2 movie via VOD of Setar's Cable Services.

Setar's Digital Cable Services offers movies, documentaries, concerts, Karaoke, children's series and a whole lot more!

By ordering the movie, you are able to watch it over a 24 hour period. This way you can watch whenever that is convenient to you and as many times as you wish during the 24 hour period.

There are three ways to gain access to VOD:

- At Channel 1 by accessing the VOD menu
- By pressing the VOD button on your remote control
- Or by pressing the MENU button on the remote to get the "Quick Menu" and via the arrows locate the VOD

As soon as you access the

VOD menu, you will be able to go to "Movies." And by using the arrows find the "Family-Kids" category and there locate the CARS 2 movie together with other movies offered by Setar's Digital Cable Services.

Viewing rates for these movies are listed in US dollars, but Aruba viewers are charged in Aruban florins. The rate for CARS 2 is Afls.6 which Setar simply adds to your Telephone bill at the end of the month.

For more information on how to use VOD, visit www.setar.aw or call 525-1700.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Etta James in 'final stages of leukemia'



Blues singer Etta James, whose health has been fading in recent years, is now terminally ill, and her live-in doctor is asking for prayers.

Dr. Elaine James, who isn't related to the 73-year-old entertainer, said that the singer's chronic leukemia was declared incurable two weeks ago.

Elaine James says she's spreading word of the singer's ailments so people will pray for her. She says fans know Etta James has been sick "but not how sick."

Inquiry: Dutch Catholic Church abused 'tens of thousands'

THE HAGUE (AFP) - An independent Dutch inquiry into child sexual abuse committed by Catholic priests said yesterday it found "tens of thousands" of victims since 1945, identifying 800 alleged perpetrators.

Dutch bishops said they were filled with "shame and sorrow" over the Deetman Commission's findings -- the latest allegations of abuse which have rocked the Catholic Church in several countries in recent years. Tens of thousands of minors were exposed to "mild, severe or very severe sexual behaviour" by clergy or lay workers in the Dutch Catholic Church over a 65-year period between 1945 and 2010, the commission said in its final report.

"Based on 1,795 reports, the commission could find the names of 800 abusers who

work or have worked for" Roman Catholic bishops in The Netherlands, the report said. Most were priests, but the figure also includes lay workers. Of these 800 people, at least 105 are still alive.

"It's an absolutely enormous figure," said former education minister Wim Deetman who chaired the six-person commission including a former judge, university professors and a psychologist that began its inquiry last year.

Deetman said it was up to prosecutors to decide if the surviving alleged abusers should face criminal charges.

Claims of alleged sexual abuse examined by the inquiry went from "light physical contact to penetration," he said.

Dutch bishops expressed their regrets and offered "sin-

cere apologies" to the victims.

Based on an examination of Church archives, Deetman said that the problem of sexual abuse had been "on the agenda of episcopal meetings" since the 1940s. "The Dutch Catholic Church knew what was happening and tried to resolve the problem," but the appropriate actions were never taken.

A taboo on discussing sexuality in society until the 1960s and the Catholic Church's "closed" administrative structure were in part responsible for religious authorities' passive response to the problem, the commission said.

"Then again, people simply could not believe that a religious person could do that," said Deetman.

The former minister said the inquiry came to no conclusion about a direct link between priestly celibacy and sexual abuse, but the commission's report said celibacy posed a risk and led to a "need for sexuality".

Deetman said the risk of sexual abuse was "twice as high" for minors attending boarding schools than for others, but he stressed that the problem also existed in non-Catholic boarding schools.

ICC declines to charge Rwandan rebel for DR Congo crimes

THE HAGUE (AFP) - Judges of the International Criminal Court yesterday decided not to charge Rwandan rebel leader Callixte Mbarushimana for crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of Congo and ordered his release.

"The pre-trial chamber decided by majority, presiding Judge Sanji Mmasemano Mongeng dissented, to decline to confirm the charges in the case of The Prosecutor v. Callixte Mbarushimana," the court said in a statement. It then ordered Mbarushimana's release.

But ICC chief prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo's office said it was studying the judges' arguments and would lodge an appeal.

"The office of the prosecutor is analysing the arguments by the majority and the minority of the chamber," his spokeswoman Florence Olara told AFP. "The office will seek a review by the appeals chamber who will make a final decision," Olara said.

Identified as the executive secretary of the Democratic Forces of the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR) rebel group, Mbarushimana faced 13 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity allegedly committed in DR Congo's Kivu provinces in 2009.

The majority of judges found "there was not sufficient evidence to establish substantial grounds to believe that Callixte Mbarushimana could be held criminally responsible for eight counts of war crimes and five counts of crimes against humanity," the court's statement added.

Judge denies exam for alleged WHouse shooter

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A federal judge yesterday denied a request for an assessment of the mental capacity of a man accused of firing shots at the White House last month in an attempt to assassinate US President Barack Obama.

"I didn't see any delusional thinking in this case that would affect his competency," said John Facciola, ordering the case to continue at a new hearing on Monday.

Earlier this week a hearing was scheduled to examine new evidence on the psychological health of Oscar Ramiro Ortega-Hernandez, 21, to ensure he can be held legally liable, with authorities reticent to rely solely on the finding of a 50-minute screening which said the defendant was fit to stand trial.

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US forces report admits Afghan local police abuses

KABUL (AFP) - A US military report acknowledged yesterday that members of a US-funded Afghan police force have committed human rights abuses, but insisted the units are making a "tremendous difference" overall.

The report followed a highly critical Human Rights Watch (HRW) investigation released in September that claimed members of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) are getting away with serious abuses including rape and murder.

The ALP was set up last year and has been touted as key to the handover of security

control from NATO to Afghan forces, allowing all US-led foreign combat troops to leave Afghanistan in theory by the end of 2014.

The force arms local people to protect their communities in areas where the Afghan army and regular police have limited reach. It does not have law enforcement powers, and is due to more-than triple in size to 30,000. Critics have called it little more than a militia.

The investigation, ordered by the US commander in Afghanistan, looked at 46 allegations of abuse involving either the ALP or other armed

groups and found seven were credible, 10 were not credible, and 15 were credible "in part".

Investigating officer Brigadier James Marrs of the US Air Force said of the allegations made specifically against the ALP in the HRW report, one was fully substantiated -- that the ALP could be difficult to distinguish from other armed groups.

HRW also raised concerns about the role of government-backed militia groups controlled by local strongmen, which it linked to rapes, smuggling, extortion and targeted killings.

Mexico university seeks probe after bodies found

MEXICO CITY (AFP) - The rector of a Mexican university called yesterday for a probe into the political links of a shady student organization where five bodies were found this week.

The Federation of Students "doesn't represent anything inside the university and only keeps operating to ask for protection money," said Marco Antonio Cortes from the University of Guadalajara on MVS radio.

Three of the five bodies found buried on the grounds of the federation Thursday in the western city of Guadalajara, some 340 miles (550 kilometers) from Mexico City, were identified as high school students who were reported missing Saturday.

A 21-year-old and a 51-year-old have still to be identified, according to the prosecutor's office of Jalisco state, of which Guadalajara is capital.

Investigators believe the

victims went to complain about a rise in protection money for selling snacks outside the campus when a dispute broke out, an official from the prosecutor's office told AFP, declining to be named.

The university called for a protest against the killings on Friday.

The first bodies were found two days after two students in nearby Guerrero state were killed in a clash with police during a student protest.

Massive outage as storm batters northern France

RENNES (AFP) - A storm battered France and Switzerland yesterday, with three people injured in a Swiss train derailment, hundreds of thousands left without power and a grounded ship spilling oil off Brittany.

In France, Interior Minister Claude Gueant said France appeared to have escaped storm Joachim without injuries, although it wrought some significant damage, with downed electricity lines in some areas. "It seems there have been no victims," he said, adding that "a certain number" of people living in low-lying areas in Brittany, in the northwest, had been evacuated because of the storm.

Officials said 600,000 households had lost electricity because of the storm, mainly in the west of the country.

By midday, the number of homes without electricity had fallen to about 260,000 as workers scrambled to restore electricity infrastructure.

The storm had been battering the area since Thursday night with gusts up to 133 kilometres (83 miles) per hour and waves up to seven metres (23 feet) high.

Joachim caused a cargo ship, the TK Bremen flying the Maltese flag, to run aground and spill some oil into the sea off Brittany early yesterday, officials said.

"The level of pollution is limited," said local maritime official Marc Gander, adding that regional authorities had deployed equipment to try and contain the slick and to empty the ship of its 180 tons of fuel and 40 tons of diesel. All 19 members of the ship's crew



Rescue members stand next to TK Bremen cargo ship which ran aground

were evacuated by helicopter.

Local prosecutors in Brest said they had opened an investigation into the spill.

Train traffic was disrupted with more than 15 trains cancelled in central France and significant delays, the French rail authority said.

The storm had little effect on international flights but the strong winds did force some tourist sites to close, including the park at the Chateau de Versailles near Paris and the famed Christmas market in Strasbourg.

However some airports were affected in Switzerland, with a hundred flights to European destinations cancelled at Zurich and Basel-Mulhouse.

The storm caused a train to derail, lightly injuring three people. It also caused road accidents in Switzerland with one 36-year-old driver injured when his truck was blown over.

The rail operator CGN, which manages the lines between Switzerland and France, announced the closure of all its services.

The ill wind did blow some good for winter sports enthusiasts, with heavy snowfalls falling or expected at ski stations until now short of snow for locals and tourists just ahead of the Christmas holiday peak season.

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Health & Living

Brazil bans smoking in public places nationwide



PROIBIDO FUMAR

BRASILIA (AFP) - President Dilma Rousseff on Thursday signed a law banning smoking in all enclosed public spaces in Brazil.

The new text will make Brazil, which has a population of more than 191 million, the largest country in the world to go smoke-free.

It amends a 1996 law which allowed smoking in specially designated, ventilated areas.

New norms must be regulated by Congress to set the values of fines that will punish violators, the official Agencia Brasil said.

The smoking ban in enclosed spaces was already in effect in states like Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Parana, in line with laws passed by local

legislatures.

The new federal law requires all enclosed workplaces and public places to be smoke-free, bans tobacco advertising at point of sale, increases tobacco taxes and requires large health warnings on both sides of cigarette packs.

Currently the law requires graphic warnings covering the entire back of the pack, but no warning on the front.

Matthew Myers, president of the Washington-based Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids hailed the Brazilian move.

"We applaud President Rousseff and the Brazilian

Congress for taking truly historic action to reduce tobacco use and save countless lives," said Myers who is fighting to curb tobacco use and its effects both in the United States and around the world.

"In addition to protecting the health of its own citizens, Brazil has set an important example for the world, especially as it will be the host nation of the 2014 soccer World Cup and the 2016 (summer) Olympic Games," he added.

More than 17 percent of adults in Brazil smoke, and smoking kills more than 200,000 Brazilians each year, according to official data.

US panel urges protection of humans in research

(AFP) - A bioethics panel that investigated a Guatemalan sex disease scandal urged the US government to consider compensating victims who are harmed by participating in future research.

The President's Bioethics Commission was tasked by Barack Obama after revelations last year that 1,300 people

were exposed to venereal disease as part of macabre research led by an American in Guatemala in the 1940s. Eighty-three people died during the course of the research.

In its final report, the commission urged greater transparency, easy-to-understand warnings about the potential dangers of participating in studies, and a continued focus on high ethical standards in US federally funded research.

"The commission is confident that what happened in Guatemala in the 1940s could not happen today," said commission chair Amy Gutmann.

The United States last year was engaged in 55,000 research projects around the world involving human subjects, mostly for health and medical purposes.

Gutmann said there was a "strong ethical case" for compensating people who are hurt in research but stopped short of urging a payout for the victims in Guatemala, where five survivors of the experiments were recently found.

The Guatemalan study, which was never published, came to light in 2010 after Wellesley College professor Susan Reverby stumbled upon archived documents outlining the experiment led by controversial US doctor John Cutler.

Cutler and his fellow researchers enrolled soldiers, mental patients, prostitutes, convicts and others in Guatemala for the study, which aimed to find out if penicillin could be used to prevent sexually transmitted diseases.

continues on page 09

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Gates, Canadian NGO offer \$32 mn for research

BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation

MONTREAL (AFP) - The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and a Canadian NGO announced Friday \$32 million to fund research for the discovery and development of affordable tools for rapidly diagnosing diseases in developing nations.

The aim is to diagnose and treat illness on the spot in the rural regions of poor countries, and potentially save more lives now lost to delays.

"Imagine a hand-held, battery-powered device that can take a drop of blood and, within minutes, tell a health-care worker in a remote village whether a feverish child has malaria, dengue or a bacterial infection," said Peter Singer, head of Grand Challenges Canada which is partnering with the Microsoft founder Bill Gates's charitable organization on the project.

"More rapid diagnosis of malaria alone could prevent 100,000 deaths a year."

Gates's foundation is providing \$21.1 million over three years to this research

while Grand Challenges, backed by the Canadian government, is contributing \$10.8 million, they said in a statement.

The research will focus on five areas: drawing blood and prepping it for analysis, analyzing biological samples to identify diseases, developing technologies to obtain and transmit data and receive test results back, and ensuring these devices will work in the field where there is often no electricity or refrigeration.



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Sci-Tech

New limits on US chimp research

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The leading US medical research agency said it would review all government-funded experiments on chimpanzees after an independent panel of experts urged strict limits on use of the primates.

The head of the National Institutes of Health, Francis Collins, said he agreed with the findings of the non-governmental Institute of Medicine and would move quickly to implement the changes it advised.

While stopping short of an outright ban, the IOM called for research on the great apes to continue only if there is no other model available, the research could not be performed ethically on humans, and it would hinder progress against life-threatening conditions if halted.

Chimps may still be necessary in the development of vaccines against hepatitis C, for short-term continued study of monoclonal antibody research against bacteria and viruses, comparative genome studies and behavioral research.

The IOM is a respected group of medical experts that advises decision-makers and the public on matters of health and policy. Its recommendations were the first uniform set of criteria to judge the necessity of chimps in NIH-funded biomedical and behavioral research.

When chimpanzees are used, the studies should "pro-



vide otherwise unattainable insight into comparative genomics, normal and abnormal behavior, mental health, emotion or cognition," the IOM said.

In addition, all experiments must be performed "in a manner that minimizes pain and distress, and is minimally invasive."

In response, Collins said he would move as quickly as possible to implement its recommendations, reviewing ongoing research with NIH-owned chimpanzees on a "project-by project" basis, but declined to say how long a formal review might take.

As of May, there were 937 chimpanzees available for research in the United States. The US government supports 436 of them, and the rest are owned and used for research by private industry.

Despite a swell of contro-

versy in recent years, the United States has continued to allow medical studies on chimps covering HIV/AIDS vaccines, hepatitis C, malaria, respiratory viruses, brain and behavior.

However, these studies are quite rare, making up just 53 of the 94,000 active projects sponsored by the NIH in 2011, or 0.056 percent of all federally funded US research.

Animal rights groups say the United States spends \$30 million a year on chimp research and care that could be directed to better alternatives, especially given the intelligence of chimps and their endangered status in the wild.

A group that represents scientists who use animals for research, the National Association for Biomedical Research, recalled that chimps "have made invaluable contributions to science and medicine, including the development of vaccines for hepatitis A and B."

However, vice president Matt Bailey said, "NABR

goes where the science takes us and the IOM recommendation is supported by extensive scientific data."

An NIH proposal to reintroduce 200 retired chimpanzees into research colonies last year caused mounting public outcry and led to the review of chimp research by the IOM.

The NIH called for a moratorium on breeding chimps for research back in 1995, and as a result the US federally funded research population will "largely cease to exist" by 2037, the IOM said.

European Union facilities have not conducted any research on chimps since 1999, and a formal ban on using great apes in research -- including chimpanzees, gorillas and orangutans -- was issued last year.

US panel urges protection of humans.....

continued from page 08

Initially, the researchers infected female Guatemalan sex workers with gonorrhea, syphilis or chancroid, and then encouraged them to have unprotected sex with soldiers or prison inmates.

The subjects were not told about the purpose of the research and were not warned of its potentially fatal consequences.

Cutler, who died in 2003, was also involved in a controversial study known as the Tuskegee Experiment in which hundreds of African-American men with late-stage syphilis were observed but given no treatment between 1932 and 1972.

Guatemalan President Alvaro Colom has called the 1946-1948 experiments "crimes against humanity" and earlier this month vowed to compensate the victims.

The Guatemalan government says it believes 2,082 people were infected, a higher number than the United States has acknowledged, in the research which involved 10 US and 12 Guatemalan re-

searchers.

Obama personally apologized to Colom in October 2010 before ordering a thorough review of what happened. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described the experiments as "clearly unethical."

The White House said on ahead of the commission report's release, that it could not comment on the matter of

compensation to Guatemala.

Most other developed nations have policies that require researchers and sponsors to provide treatment or compensation for treatment for injuries suffered by research subjects, Gutmann noted.


Several national bodies have urged the United States to create such a system in years past, but it has never been put in place.

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PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBS



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1. Statistician's input
5. Diminishes
9. Agree
13. "All ___ the Watchtower" (Dylan song)
15. Part of a Hawaiian honeymoon
16. Sneering rocker Billy
17. Car on its last legs
19. Charles II's gal pal Gwynn
20. Serpentine letter
21. River associated with Shakespeare
22. Marx's coauthor
24. St. Paul's architect
25. Viva voce
26. Merry Man, usually
29. Restaurant workers
32. She plays Susan on "Desperate Housewives"
33. "All Dogs ___ Heaven"
34. Container
35. Sky kings
36. He tried to exterminate Bugs
37. Treacherous
39. Fitting
40. In the neighborhood
41. Put cargo aboard
42. Malibu wharf sight
44. Pickpocket's prize
46. Joanie's portrayer on "Happy Days"
47. Clutter
48. Schwarze-

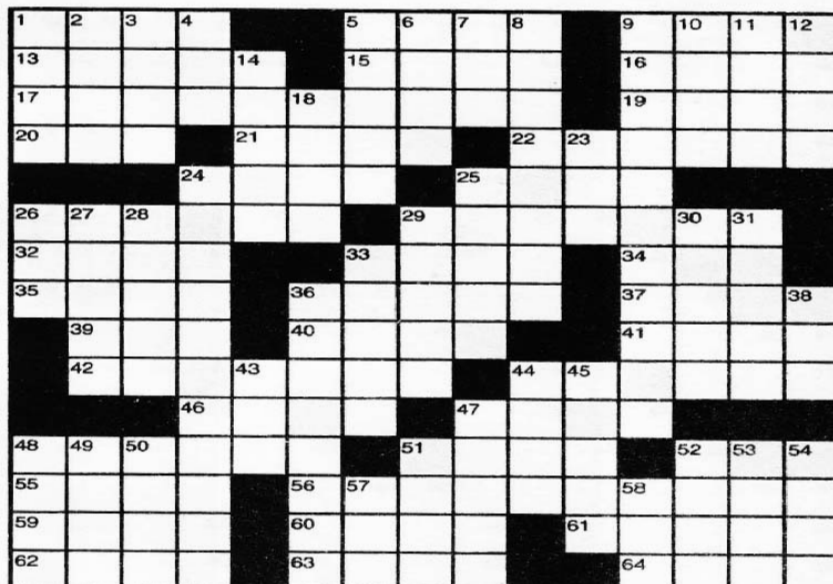
51. negger film
52. Hall roamer's need
55. Anthropoid
56. Windbag
59. Mishmash
60. Popular song topic
61. Oklahoma city
62. Tide type
63. Big-mouthed pitcher
64. Rain heavily

DOWN

1. Roanoke surname
2. "Dearie me!"
3. Little ones
4. "The ___ Bully" (2006 kiddie film)
5. "Tiny Dancer" singer John
6. Go down like whiskey
7. Sheep sound

8. Great Lake
9. Yuletide singalong favorite
10. Thought, in Toulouse
11. German author Heinrich
12. House extensions
14. Angry stare
18. From here to eternity
23. "King" Cole
24. Small town
25. "Three Mesquiteers" flick, e.g.
26. One ___ time
27. Go over again
28. Lightweight silk fabric
29. Image on Pioneer 11's plaque
30. Adversary
31. Funny, with a bite
33. Pick up, post-

36. harvest
38. Surround
43. Outrage
44. 1492 sailing direction
45. Item in the plus column
47. Latin mother
48. Black, in verse
49. Hold the scepter
50. Argent of "Land of the Dead"
51. Repair roads
52. "___ to leap tall buildings..."
53. Assume a fixed position
54. Test
57. "___ Deep Is the Ocean"
58. Place to lose a hubcap



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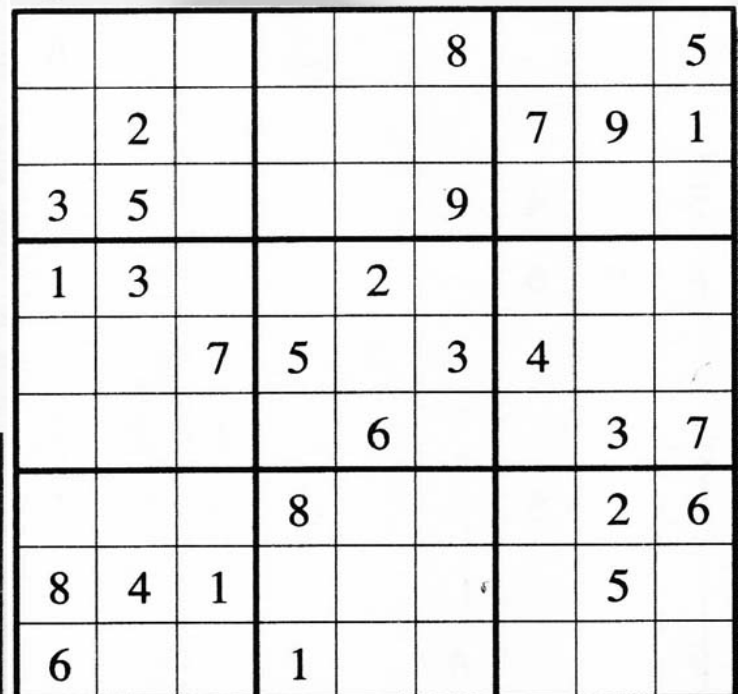
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SOLUTION

7	2	8	5	1	7	6	9	
5	5	6	7	9	1	7	8	
9	2	1	7	6	8	5	4	3
4	5	1	9	6	7	8	2	
2	1	7	8	5	4	9	6	
6	8	9	2	7	5	1		
8	7	2	6	1	7	9	5	4
1	6	7	9	5	8	2	7	
5	9	5	8	7	2	6	1	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

EU budget busters may face court under new deal

BRUSSELS (AFP) - A new agreement to push eurozone countries to rein in debt, due to be ready for signing in March, could allow Germany or any other country to drag violators before the European Court of Justice.

An EU official said yesterday that negotiations will begin Tuesday between representatives of the 27 European Union states -- including Britain, which still refuses to sign up to the so-called "fiscal compact" agreed at an EU summit on December 9.

These talks are to be "finalised by the end of January," said an EU source, ahead of a planned summit of EU leaders that several EU sources said it all-but set for Friday, February 3.

"Signing will begin in March and entry into force as soon as nine of the 17 eurozone

states have ratified," a simple majority, the first source said.

Changes including the introduction of a so-called "golden rule" to oblige states to aim for balanced budgets will apply "immediately" for eurozone countries, even if they have yet to ratify, according to a draft submitted to EU nations for consideration.

For non-euro states that choose to sign up, the new provisions will only apply "further down the line."

In the draft drawn up by EU legal services, designed to translate political commitments made by leaders into legally safe texts that do not contradict the EU's Lisbon Treaty, one chapter gives "any contracting party," or state, the right to drag another "before the Court of Justice of the European Union."

The decision of the court

will be binding, the text says.

The official said no political changes were introduced, and that changes were to reflect treaty commitments, "nothing more, nothing less."

States have very rarely taken EU partners to the court down the years, that role normally being reserved for the European Commission, the executive that acts as "guardian" of treaty law.

Talks between euro finance ministers are expected to overlap with these negotiations.

Two EU sources said the ministers will first hold talks on Monday, probably via teleconference.

Monday is the self-imposed deadline for EU leaders to come up with 200 billion euros (\$260 billion) of promised loans to boost IMF resources to stabilise the debt-laden eurozone.

Fitch casts doubt on eurozone plans to stop crisis

PARIS (AFP) - Fitch Ratings cast doubt yesterday on the budget discipline pact European states intend to adopt being able to solve the eurozone debt crisis.

"Fitch has concluded that a 'comprehensive solution' to the eurozone crisis is technically and politically beyond reach," following the crisis summit last week at which the pact was announced, it said.

While it praised announcements that private bond holders would no longer be asked to accept losses and the eurozone's permanent bailout fund would be brought into operation sooner, it said it was concerned by the absence of a credible financial backstop.

"In Fitch's opinion this requires more active and explicit commitment from the ECB to mitigate the risk of self-fulfilling liquidity crises for poten-

tially illiquid but solvent Euro Area Member States (EAMS)," it said in a statement.

The European Central Bank, strongly supported by Germany, has resisted stepping up its limited purchases of bonds of eurozone states, let alone explicitly taking on the role of a lender of last resort to governments.

The markets have welcomed the idea of the fiscal pact to help lock in budget discipline in the medium-term, they have been looking for stepped up involvement by the ECB to calm fears that countries like Italy and Spain will be driven by high borrowing costs into needing bailouts.

"In the absence of a 'comprehensive solution', the crisis will persist and likely be punctuated by episodes of severe financial market volatility," said Fitch.

It warned that such market volatility "is a particular source of risk to the sovereign governments of those countries with levels of public debt, contingent liabilities and fiscal and financial sector financing needs that are high relative to rating peers."

Fitch warns may downgrade six including Spain and Italy

PARIS (AFP) - Fitch Ratings said yesterday it was reviewing the credit ratings of six eurozone countries, including Spain and Italy, warning that their credit scores could be downgraded.

Placing Belgium, Spain, Slovenia, Italy, Ireland and Cyprus on Ratings Watch Negative "indicates that the above ratings are under active review and are subject to a heightened probability of downgrade in the near-term," said Fitch.

The ratings agency added that any downgrades of ratings would likely be limited to one or two notches and that it expects to make decisions by the end of January.

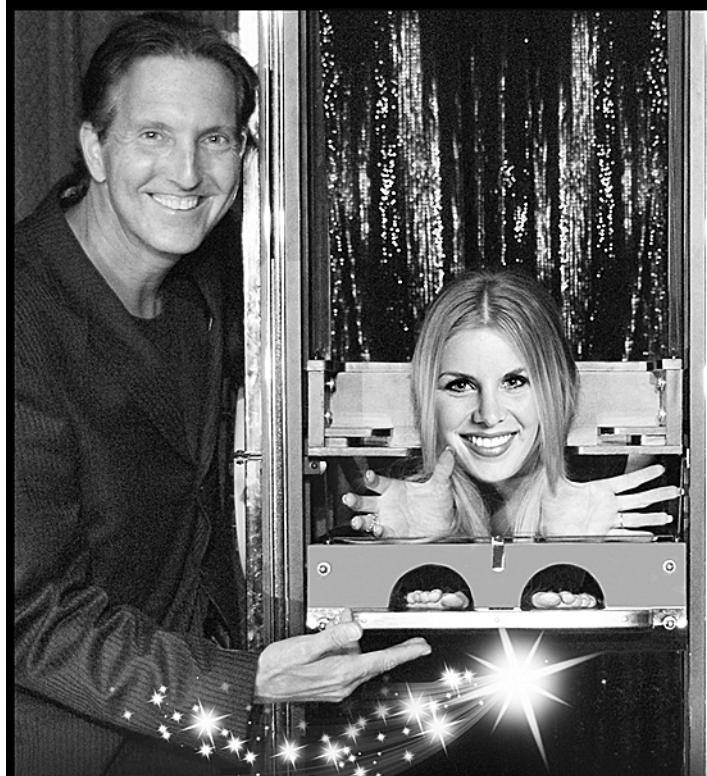
Belgium currently has an AA+ rating from Fitch, Spain AA-, Slovenia AA-, Italy A+, Ireland BBB+, and Cyprus BBB.

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ERR	ON THE	BALL
SECTS	SOP	LOA
URIS	CIC	
RELATED	CABOT	
EGAD	ADA	RIDE
CORED	EMERGED	
RAH	AVOW	
ISA	DOB	ETHEL
RING	GABELL	ELI
INDY	OBEY	EMS
SKIM	SEEN	LOT



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Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.70	1.72	1.74
Britain	GBP	2.70	2.75	2.81
Switzerland	CHF	189.79	190.51	191.31
Netherlands	EUR	230.57	232.68	235.01
Sweden	SEK	24.77	25.49	26.29
Denmark	DKK	30.34	31.06	31.86
Norway	NOK	28.93	29.65	30.45
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Conversations with: Island entertainer Ernesto Ferro guitarist and composer

Ernesto Ferro has been a favorite performer on Aruba for some years, particularly coming to public attention as he channeled Brian May during the "Tribute to Queen" concert, the grand finale of the inaugural Aruba Wine, Food & Art Festival at the Westin Resort in 2005. Only a few years later, he realized a dream by meeting the actual Brian May in person, when the group performed during the annual Aruba Music Festival.

Ernesto defied his father, an Italian violin maker, to pursue a career playing guitar, which he secretly took up at the age of 11, though he was urged to become a classical violinist. Contemporary music was his first love, and he went on to pair with a number of renowned per-

formers, composing pieces and producing record albums in his native Venezuela. Here he was signed by Sono Rodven, the most important label in the country, while part of the band of renowned Heavy Metal pioneer of Venezuela, Paul Gillman. "Levantate y Pelea" (Get up and Fight) was a collection of original songs they composed. A collection album "Los Duros del Rock" featured Ernesto's first hit song along with those of Iron Maiden, Motley Crue and Helix.

During the ten years Ernesto played lead guitar to Gillman's vocals, they produced a number of popular albums and performed at the Miss Venezuela Pageant in 1986. Heavy Metal and Hard Rock were the group's signature music; for several weeks

they competed for Most Popular performers alongside Maria Conchita Alonzo and they performed on the same TV shows that featured such luminaries of Latin Music as Ricky Martin, Celia Cruz, Chayanne and more.

1990-91 Ernesto toured New York, Washington DC, Florida, Italy and Aruba with Gillman, receiving accolades and award nominations; he went solo in 1992 and eventually formed the Misery Blues Band. He is always grateful that his time with Gillman took him to Aruba, as he eventually came back to make his home here, and immediately became a very popular draw in the resorts and various clubs. He also settled for a time in Los Angeles performing with a number of famed performers,



but Aruba drew him back, much to the delight of his many fans on the island.

You can catch Ernesto Ferro performing at Taste of Belgium Restaurant in Palm

Beach Plaza every Friday evening, or while dining under the stars at Las Ramblas in the La Cabana Beach & Racquet Club every Monday and Thursday night.

Actor Bale attacked during trip to China dissident



BEIJING (AFP) - Oscar-winning actor Christian Bale has suffered a nasty brush with Chinese guards who forcibly blocked him and a CNN crew from visiting a blind lawyer-dissident being held under house arrest.

Bale, who is in China to promote his upcoming Nanjing Massacre film "The Flowers of War", was stopped on Thursday on the outskirts of the village in eastern China where the activist Chen Guangcheng is being detained.

Bale, describing Chen as a personal "inspiration", invited a CNN crew to accompany him on an eight-hour drive from Beijing to the village in Linyi district.

The same guards in green military-style overcoats who attacked the CNN crew during a February visit to the village were again present, and aimed punches at Bale and the crew, the network's video footage showed.

"Why can I not visit this

free man?" Bale asked repeatedly, as the guards tried to snatch a camera from the star of "The Dark Knight" and "The Fighter" and drag him away.

The Hollywood actor and CNN crew retreated to their van but were then chased down bumpy roads by the guards in another vehicle for 40 minutes, resulting in damage to the van, CNN reported.

"I'm not being brave doing this," Bale reflected in the van, once they had made their getaway. "The local people who are standing up to the authorities, who are visiting Chen and his family and getting beaten up for it... I want to support what they're doing," he said.

Activists organised through the Internet have been flocking to Chen's village as part of an online campaign to free the self-taught lawyer and rights campaigner, who has been blind since childhood and turned 40 last month.

But campaigners say thugs have beaten up many of those who were able to come close to the home of the lawyer, who has been under house arrest since he completed a four-year jail sentence last year.

Chen is renowned for revealing forced sterilisations and late-term abortions affecting thousands of women in the eastern province of Shandong as part of measures to enforce China's population control policy.

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December is a particularly great time to sign up to be a Cool Customer, as bonus points, which when

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Parents Guide to Skin Protection



It's important to protect your children's skin from the damaging effects of the sun. No matter what they're doing or what time of year it is, if they are outdoors, they need to be protected.

Aruba is one of the places in the world where the sun is the strongest. Located only 12.5 degrees north of the equator, the sun shines with maximum strength and penetrates the atmosphere with a maximum amount of UV rays. What most people don't know on water and sand, which means that even in the shade you need protection.

Protecting the skin from the sun during childhood and adolescence is important in reducing cancer risks later in life. By building safe sun habits into your family's daily routine, you will make your children understand and get used to being protected against the sun and they will become more aware of the harmful effects it can have to their skin. Parents should take the lead by giving the good example; children will respond better when they see their parents protecting their skin as well.

Important recommendations:

- Wear protective clothing when out in the sun. Choose shirts and slacks made of tightly woven fabrics that you can't see through when held up to light.

- Cover up with Hats. Choose hats that shade your child's face, neck and ears.

- Apply Sunscreen every day on skin that is not protected by clothing or a hat. Choose a sunscreen with a high Sun Protection Factor (SPF) such as Aruba Aloe's Waterproof SPF 30 sunscreen for maximum protection. For babies and children under 2 years old, make sure to use a special sunscreen that gives extra protection for the sensitive skin such as "Waterproof Babies SPF 30" from Aruba Aloe. Remember to reapply after swimming, sweating or toweling dry if you use a sunscreen that is not waterproof.

- Use sunscreen even on hazy or overcast days.

- Keep an extra bottle of sunscreen in the car.

- Pack a bottle of sunscreen in your child's bag.

- Use Sunglasses that block UV rays and protect the eyes and the surrounding tender skin.

- Play in the Shade. The



sun's rays are generally strongest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. If your children are outdoors, make sure their skin is protected.

- Teach your children the shadow rule. When outside, if your shadow is shorter than you are, it means that the sun is high in the sky and the UV rays are most intense.

- Protect children younger than 6 months of age with clothing and keep them in the shade.

For more advice on how to best protect your and your children's skin against the sun, please call Aruba Aloe: 588-3222 or visit the website www.ArubaAloe.com

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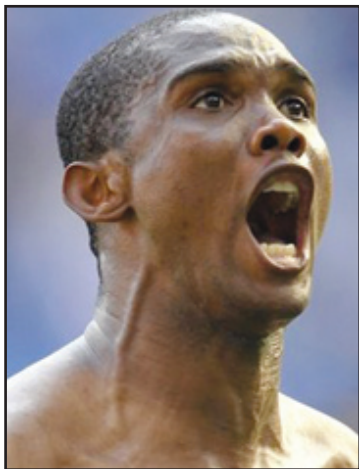
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SPORTS

Cameroon ban captain Eto'o for 15 matches



JOHANNESBURG (AFP) - Cameroon banned reigning African Footballer of the Year Samuel Eto'o for 15 matches Friday after a players' strike forced a friendly fixture in Algeria last month to be cancelled.

The surprisingly harsh punishment was meted out by the Cameroon Football Federation (FECAFOOT) disciplinary committee and reported on the website of the governing body.

National team striker and captain Eto'o has been voted African Footballer of the Year a record four times and has represented the Cameroonian

'Indomitable Lions' for more than a decade.

But the Russia-based striker has frequently disagreed with officials -- especially on money issues -- and took the brunt of the blame when a strike prevented the Algeria match going ahead.

Cameroon had beaten Sudan and drawn with hosts Morocco in a four-nation Marrakech tournament and were due to wrap up a hectic friendly schedule against Algeria.

Eto'o and his team-mates claimed they were not paid money due to them by FECAFOOT and the fixture had to be canned with Algeria claiming one million dollars compensation for lost revenue.

The star has two weeks to appeal the ban which would rule him out of a 2013 Africa Cup of Nations tie in Guinea Bissau on February 29 next year and 2014 World Cup qualifiers against Democratic Republic of Congo and Libya in June.

Vice-captain Eyang Enoh, who plays for Dutch club Ajax Amsterdam, was given a two-match ban for his role in a strike which caused huge embarrassment for Cameroon football.

Tottenham Hotspur defender Benoit Assou-Ekotto, another footballer involved in endless disputes with the Cameroonian authorities, received a 2,000-dollar fine for not honouring a call-up to the Marrakech tournament.

Eto'o, who played for Real Madrid, Barcelona and Inter Milan before joining Anzhi Makhachkala last August for a reported world record salary, and Enoh attended a FECAFOOT disciplinary hearing last Monday.

Rumours spread soon after that Eto'o faced a seven-match suspension from a national team struggling to maintain its status as one of the best on the continent.

More than doubling the ban

to 15 matches is sure to trigger outrage among supporters with Eto'o seen as the team catalyst despite proving an unsuccessful skipper since replacing veteran defender Rigobert Song two years ago.

Cameroon lost all three pool matches in one of the weaker 2010 World Cup first round mini-leagues and were the first country eliminated from the tournament in South Africa.

More disappointment followed in the 2012 Africa Cup of Nations qualifiers with the Indomitable Lions finishing a distant second behind Senegal and not reaching the finals for the first time in 18 years.

Paterno knew Sandusky 'inappropriate'

HARRISBURG (AFP) - Former Penn State University American football coach Joe Paterno knew that his assistant Jerry Sandusky had taken "inappropriate action" with a youth, grand jury testimony said on Friday.

Testimony by Paterno was read in court during a preliminary hearing for university officials accused of lying to a grand jury about what they were told of an incident of alleged child abuse involving Sandusky, who is accused of molesting 10 boys over an 11-year period.

McQueary made his first public comments about the incident he witnessed on Friday, detailing that he heard slapping sounds in a shower and looked to see Sandusky behind a boy facing a wall with his hands around the boy's waist.

"It was very clear that it looked like there was intercourse going on," McQueary said, although he admitted he could not be certain.

McQueary reported the incident to Paterno, whose testi-

mony to the grand jury said that McQueary reported Sandusky doing something with a "sexual nature" to the boy.

Paterno did report the incident to university officials but did not pursue the matter with police. He was fired a few days after the grand jury indictment of Sandusky became public, with critics saying he should have done more.

He said he did not provide explicit details of the incident to Paterno but did so about 10

days later when contacted by Tim Curley and Gary Schultz, the two university officials who were the focus of Friday's hearing.

"I told them that I saw Jerry in the showers with a young boy and that what I had seen was extremely sexual and over the lines and it was wrong," McQueary said.

"I would have described that it was extremely sexual and I thought that some kind of intercourse was going on."



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2nd Annual Extreme Import Int'l.....

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Don Omar

Tuesday, January 25, there will be a car show at the Palomarga Raceway; spectacular muscle cars and their drivers will be on display to meet fans, sign autographs and take pictures, including Don Omar.

There will be entertainment by local bands as well and entrance is free.

The last three days of the event will be "pure racing excitement at Palomarga," stated Frans, "last year it was

the biggest racing event on Aruba, and this year will be even bigger and better."

Sponsors for the week are General Store, Tropicana Aruba Resort, quick Electrical Services, Aruba Trading Company with Presidente Beer and Label 5, Diario, Vicari Trading, Trendy Home Builder, Smart Systems, Go Fast Sports and Valvoline. Tickets can be purchased for the opening night at their retail outlets.

NFL: Eagles hope soar higher than Jets

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - The Philadelphia Eagles head into the weekend clinging to their slim post-season hopes and trying to silence the critics who say they haven't lived up to lofty expectations this year.

"It's exciting. We've got three games left and it's up for grabs," Eagles coach Andy Reid said. "I'd say that's a good thing."

The Eagles will face on Sunday a New York Jets team that is riding a three-game winning streak.

Philadelphia (5-8) were tabbed as one of the favourites at the start of the National Football League season but they have switched to become the league's biggest flop so far.

They are two games back of the first-place tie between Dallas and the New York Giants in the NFC East and have an outside shot at a wild-card playoff spot.

A loss on Sunday would eliminate the Eagles from playoff contention.

The Jets, meanwhile, have now enjoyed three straight victories after losing their previous two games.

With their own post-season hopes on the line, New York (8-5) will be seeking their first ever victory over the Eagles on Sunday at Lincoln Financial Field.

The Jets enter their final three games of the regular season two games back of AFC East-leading New England.

"I think we're all just playing a lot better across the board," said quarterback Mark Sanchez. "I think hopefully we're just starting to hit our stride, and we're not there yet."

New York continued their momentum with a 37-10 rout of Kansas City last week for their best offensive perform-



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Ray Edwards #93 of the Atlanta Falcons sacks Blaine Gabbert #11 of the Jacksonville Jaguars at the Georgia Dome on December 15, 2011

ance of the season so far.

Week 15 of the season kicked off Thursday night with the Atlanta Falcons dominating the Jacksonville Jaguars 41-14.

In another key Sunday game, the Detroit Lions will welcome back one of their top players against the Oakland Raiders as defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh returns from a two-game suspension.

The Lions are hoping that having Suh back will help them avoid a third consecutive road defeat. Oakland need to win to avoid a third straight loss.

The Lions (8-5) should get a much-needed boost from Suh. The controversial defensive player was suspended for stepping on the right arm of Packers offensive lineman Evan Dietrich-Smith during a 27-15 loss on Thanksgiving Day.

Detroit have lost five of eight games since opening the season with five consecutive

victories, leaving them in position now for a possible wild-card spot.

"One win down, and we've got three left to get," said Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford.

Tim Tebow's Denver Broncos will face New England and a victory over Tom Brady and the Patriots would take Tebow-mania to a new plateau.

The Patriots have long struggled in Denver, and they will have a difficult challenge

there Sunday as they seek to snap the Broncos' stunning six-game winning streak and wrap up their ninth AFC East title in 11 seasons.

In other weekend matchups it is Dallas at Tampa, Seattle at Chicago, Cincinnati at St. Louis, Washington at the New York Giants, Green Bay at Kansas City, New Orleans at Minnesota, Tennessee at Indianapolis, Miami at Buffalo, Carolina at Houston, Cleveland at Arizona and Baltimore at San Diego.

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Invincible Mario Lobo wins 19th consecutive championship!



Last Tuesday night, December 13, the Aruba Table Tennis Association (ATTA) organized its Copa Aruba 2011 Tournament for categories A-Class, B-Class and Masters. Ten of the best Table Tennis athletes in Aruba play in the A-Class category, which is based on their results during the past year.

The ten best players this year are: Edward Wong, James Letren, Alfred Leong, Ronny Reyes, Michel Ling, Rocky Ras, Franklin Lopez, Remy de Lange, Andy Gomes, and Mario Lobo. After the first round played in groups, Alfred Leong, Franklin Lopez, Remy de Lange and Mario Lobo continued to the cross final.

After a relatively easy cross final, Remy de Lange and Mario Lobo advanced to the final in the A-Class category. To the surprise of everyone Remy de Lange lost the match to a score of 3-0 against Mario Lobo. Coming in third place was athlete Franklin Lopez who won Alfred Leong. This resulted in Mario Lobbo becoming the winner for the 19th consecutive year....Lobo is considered an extraordinary and invincible player with a record too difficult to break!

All players below the A-Class Category are in Cate-

gory B-Class in which the best youth players also participate. This year the youth group dominated the first and second places.

By 11:00 in the evening, Lifrendy Lampe became the winner in the youth category of the final in Category B-Class, with Shawn Vlaun following in second place. Ronny Provence resulted the third place winner who received his very first trophy for 2011.

On the 6th of December the ATTA organized the Aruba Copa 2011 Tournament for the Masters Category. After a tie between three participants who lost only one game each, they resorted to counting points. As a result of having the best average for the 4th year, Franklin Lopez landed in the first place, followed respectively by James Letren and Ronny Reyes.

The Aruba Table Tennis Association congratulates all participants and wishes the community of Aruba a joyful Christmas and prosperous New Year.

The Morning News is delighted to note that there seems to be new life pumped into a very interesting sport that appears to be on the come back on the island. For many

years little or nothing was heard or seen of Table Tennis on Aruba. It appeared to have died or had taken a far away back seat. It is wonderful to get news about Table Tennis and to see that it is still very much alive and growing once again. Good job guys, more power to you! The Editor.

2nd Annual Extreme Import International to feature famed singer Don Omar



Sue Ann Lee of ATA, Kimberly of ATC and Frans Ponson

Promoters of international drag racing on Aruba, 3G Racing, Land Aruba and Aruba Trading Company announced a momentous racing event to open the racing season, taking place January 24 through 28, 2012. Guaranteeing an historic event for Aruba will be the presence of mega-Reggaeton star Don Omar, himself a racing enthusiast, representing his native island of Puerto Rico with his team King of Kings and their car, Blue Zone.

Promoter and race car driver Frans Ponson described the event as "the biggest race of

the year" with participation by teams from Aruba, the U.S.

and Puerto Rico. Other famed competitors are:

- G Force (Honda Prelude)
 - Cocoliso Racing (Celica)
 - El Estresico (Celica)
 - The Extreme Import winner of 2011: Lucimar (Rx7)
 - Aruba's fastest Extreme Import car: Hailey (Rx7)
- Other local imports registered participants include Super Scion, Good2 Starlet, Franse Pass Connection Corolla, Danny Turbo and a new Nightmare RX-8.

Five days dedicated to hot cars will begin on January 24 with a Test and Tune session, followed by the opening event: a concert with popular local bands featuring a performance by Don Omar.

continues on page 15

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